



UIC Report 2012

Tournaments

The biggest requirements in 2012 were again for the Diamond series held in Slough. We had 14 full time umpires at D1 to cover 12 fields, so scheduling was easy. At D2 we had exactly 12 full time umpires, which made it a little more interesting, and 13 umpires for D3. There were quite a few new people for D3 which was very promising.

Both Bristol tournaments were well covered as always, with a good mix of experienced and new umpires.

The London Tournaments were covered mostly successfully.

The Pioneers tournament lost 3 fields at late notice, and was down to 6 diamonds, which made it easier to schedule.

All National tournaments were severely hit by bad weather and several were cancelled. Those which went ahead were covered successfully, with BASU still promoting the use of 2 man umpire systems where possible.

The World Series tournament was a little short of umpires but we still managed to successfully cover all the games.

Edinburgh again was Crew Chiefed by the Tournament Organiser, and managed to get all the games covered with a combination of BASU and non BASU umpires. All were paid at the event.

The BA tournament had all its games covered, with a new CC covering the schedule. Special mention must be made to the BA organising committee who paid the umpires costs in advance this year, after being warned for late payment last year.

Solent Last Ball proved to be a disaster for BASU and most of the people involved. We struggled to get all the umpires we needed, and with GB running a training clinic over the same weekend, and a few leaving parties; we were deprived of a few regulars who may have otherwise been available. Somehow we managed to get most of the games covered on Saturday, and the terrible weather wiped out most of Sunday. Lessons have been



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learned with respect to some of the issues we experienced, and early dialogue with the organisers this year should yield better results in 2013.

The London cup was allocated a BASU Crew Chief, but the organisers asked someone else to cover it. Unfortunately this CC didn't turn up! We had 3 ESF umpires and a travelling Canadian umpire, along with local umpires covering the games. There were no issues with the umpiring.

BASU in Europe

We met our requirements this year even though we lost an ESF umpire. I am currently unsure of the number of travelling teams we have going to Europe this year, but think we should be ok to cover our commitments.

Reports from the ESF were received for all our umpires, and in general I agree with their observations. All of our umpires received good feedback as we continue to gain more experience at international level.

No ESF fastpitch clinic was run so we could not qualify a replacement. There will be one held this year and we intend to send a candidate from the UK.

No mention has been made of an ESF slowpitch course in 2013. I still feel slowpitch is not given the same level of consideration in Europe as so little is played there, and this is reflected in the way the training courses are organised. We may have the opportunity to rectify this with the possibility of running an ISF course in this country in May. This will be open to all experienced umpires with an ESF qualification and/or at least 6 years' experience in umpiring at the top level in this country.

In spite of assurances from the fastpitch community that every effort would be made to recruit new umpires from within the sport, **no one came forward for qualified umpire clinics**. The only viable candidate we have is from a slowpitch background, and I don't see any improvement in this situation for the foreseeable future.



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General Comments

We have continued to support all the tournaments across the country requested of us, with mostly good results. The regular Crew Chiefs have continued to do a good job. New CCs have had mixed results, but with a little more guidance from the experienced members I'm sure they will all become familiar faces.

The newer umpires persevered despite some torrid behavior from players that should know better, and are continuing to improve with greater experience and more games under their belt.

We must continue to encourage new people into umpiring, whether they are still playing the game, or have decided to take a step back from playing and would prefer to officiate on a more regular basis. Some of the older ones (more experienced!!) are showing signs of wear and tear, and we need a regular new input of umpires to continue meeting the demand of the growing number of new tournaments coming onto the calendar.

Jes Sandhu